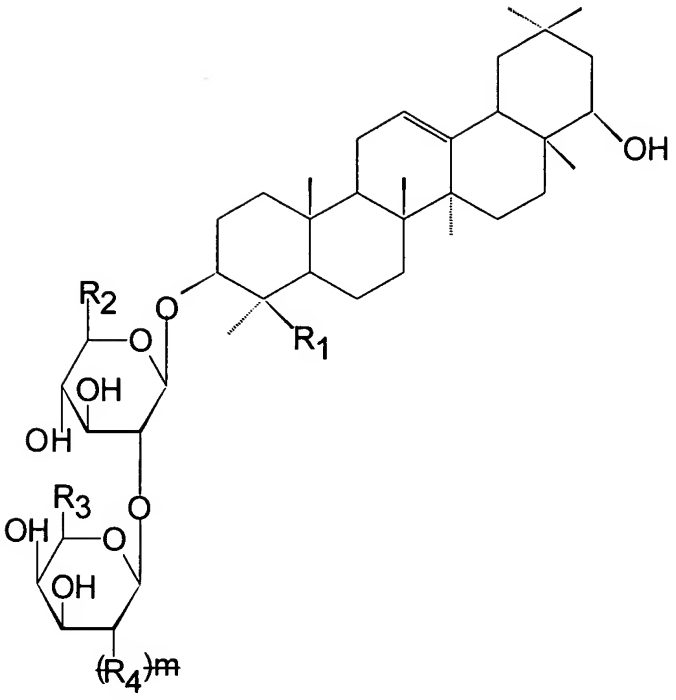
In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 8 of the specification as follows:

Sialyltransferase is a family of enzyme, which catalyzes the last step in the biosynthesis of complex oligosaccharides by transferring sialic acids onto terminal positions of carbohydrate group from glycoconjugates. It was known that the expression levels of sialyltransferases are significantly increasing during embryogenesis, [growth,] development, differentiation, immune defense, migration and homing of leukocytes, inflammation, allergy, infection by pathogens, oncogenic transformation, tumor metastatic potential and invasion (see Warren et. al., 1972, Proc Natl Acad Sci USA., 69(7), 1838-42; Oliver et. al., 1999, Glycobiology, 9(6), 557-569; Pilatte et al., 1993, 3(3), 201-18; and Whitehouse et. al., 1997, J Cell Biol. 137(6), 1229-41).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 11 and ending on page 4 line 10 by replacing the term "$(R_4)m$" with "R_4" in the chemical structure and by further amending the paragraph as shown below:

The object of the invention is to provide a saponin derivative useful for in inhibiting sialyltransferase activity, which is the general formula (I) or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof:



wherein

R_1 is hydrogen, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, or C_{1-8} alkylhydroxy;

R_2 is hydrogen, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, COOH, $COOC_{1-8}$alkyl;

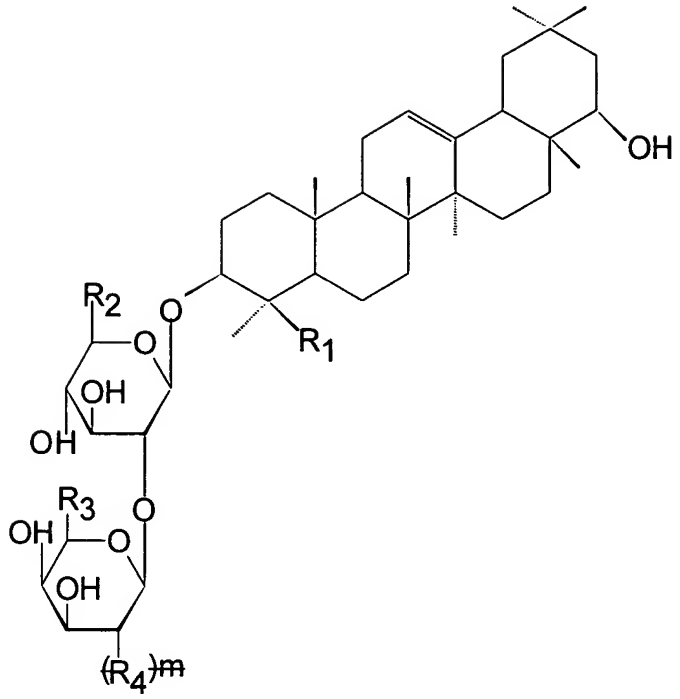
R_3 is C_{1-8} alkylhydroxy, hydrogen, C_{1-8} alkyl, C2-6 alkenyl or C_{2-6} alkynyl;

R_4 is [a sugar residue;] OH or X_m, wherein X is pentose or hexose residue or their derivatives; and

m is 0, 1, 2 or 3.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 16 and ending on page 7 line 9 by replacing the term "$(R_4)m$" with "R_4" in the chemical structure and by further amending the paragraph as shown below:

One aspect of the invention is to provide a saponin derivative useful for inhibiting sialyltransferase, which is the general formula (I) or the the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof:



A3 cont'd

wherein

R_1 is hydrogen, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, or C_{1-8} alkylhydroxy;

R_2 is hydrogen, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, COOH, $COOC_{1-8}$alkyl;

R_3 is C_{1-8} alkylhydroxy, hydrogen, C_{1-8} alkyl, C2-6 alkenyl or C_{2-6} alkynyl;

R_4 is [a sugar residue;] OH or X_m, wherein X is pentose or hexose residue or their derivatives; and

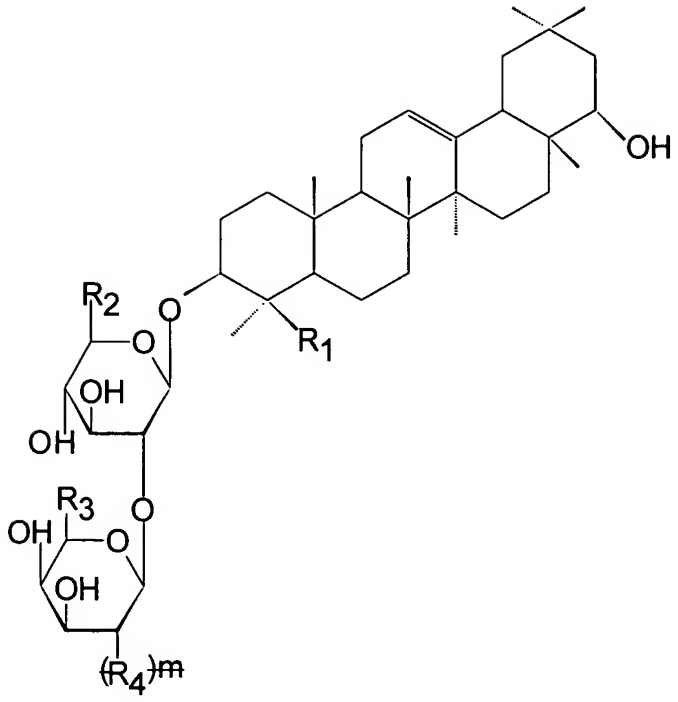
m is 0, 1, 2 or 3.

✓

Please amend the Abstract Of The Disclosure paragraph beginning on page 25, line 6 and ending on page 26 line 6 by replacing the term "$(R_4)m$" with "R_4" in the chemical structure and by further amending the paragraph as shown below:

A4

The invention provides the use of the saponin derivatives, which is of the general formula (I) or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof:



wherein

R_1 is hydrogen, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, or C_{1-8} alkylhydroxy;

R_2 is hydrogen, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, COOH, $COOC_{1-8}$alkyl;

R_3 is C_{1-8} alkylhydroxy, hydrogen, C_{1-8} alkyl, C2-6 alkenyl or C_{2-6} alkynyl;

R_4 is [a sugar residue;] OH or X_m, wherein X is pentose or hexose residue or their derivatives; and

m is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

and pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, as well as the use of such pharmaceutical composition in the inhibition of sialyltransferases.

A4 concl'd